

Subject card

Subject name and code	Literary Theory, PG_00137883						
Field of study	English Studies						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025		Academic year of realisation of subject		2025/2026		
Education level	Master's studies		Subject group		Obligatory subject group in the field of study Optional subject group Subject group related to scientific research in the field of study		
Mode of study	full-time studies		Mode of delivery		at the university		
Year of study	1		Language of instruction		English		
Semester of study	1		ECTS credits		3.0		
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form		credit		
Conducting unit	Institute of English and American Studies -> Faculty of Languages -> Rector						
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr Aleksandra Wisniewska				
	Teachers		dr Aleksandra Wisniewska				
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						
Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan		Participation in consultation hours		Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	30		2.0		43.0	75
Subject objectives	The aim of the course is to familiarise students with the basics of selected research methodologies. It is done with the aid of theoretical texts as well as through discussion of appropriately selected literary texts. The primary goal of the course is to encourage students to treat a literary text as a record of discourse than can be analysed from different perspectives in order to arrive at internally consistent interpretations. The course is also intended to enable students to use appropriate terminology in relation to literary 'facts'.						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[FAMU2_W10] Knows and understands to an in-depth extent the advanced methods of analysis and interpretation relevant to English-language literature.	Knows and understands the main trends in the development of literary studies, especially in relation to the study of English literature.	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion [SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report
	[FAMU2_K01] Is ready to critically evaluate the extent of their knowledge and skills, in particular in the field of English-language linguistics and literature and English.	Is ready to critically assess the extent of his knowledge and skills, especially in English-language literary studies.	[SK8] observation of student's independent or team work
	[FAMU2_U06] Can communicate in speech and writing in English and Polish with diverse audiences on specialized topics in the field of linguistics and literature, also using advanced specialized terminology.	Is able to communicate with diverse audiences on specialized topics in literary studies, also using advanced specialized terminology.	[SU8] observation of student's independent or team work
	[FAMU2_W02] Knows and understands in depth selected issues constituting advanced general knowledge in the field of literature and English-language literature.	Knows and understands to an in-depth degree selected issues that constitute advanced general knowledge in literary studies.	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion [SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report
	[FAMU2_W04] Knows and understands in depth advanced research methodologies and theories in the field of literary studies relevant to the study of English-language literature.	Knows and understands to an in-depth degree advanced research methodologies and theories in literary studies relevant to the study of English literature.	[SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report
	[FAMU2_W06] Knows and understands advanced terminology in the field of literary studies, in particular those used in the study of English-language literature.	Knows and understands to an in-depth degree the advanced terminology of literary studies, including in particular those applicable to the study of English-language literatures.	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion [SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report
	[FAMU2_K02] Is prepared to recognise the importance of knowledge and skills in English Studies in solving cognitive and practical problems and to seek the advice of a supervisor in their chosen place of work in the event of difficulty in solving problems on their own.	Is ready to recognize the importance of knowledge and skills in English studies in solving cognitive and practical problems, and to consult a research supervisor in case of difficulties in solving problems independently.	[SK8] observation of student's independent or team work
	[FAMU2_W08] Knows and understands to an in-depth extent selected issues constituting advanced detailed knowledge in the field of literary studies and English-language literatures.	Knows and understands to an in-depth degree selected issues that constitute advanced specific knowledge in literary studies.	[SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report

Subject contents	Selected methodological approaches to the study of texts (20th, 21st cent.): Russian Formalism, New Criticism, structuralism, feminist criticism, cognitive criticism, postcolonial studies, ecocriticism, posthumanism. Exploration and practical application of theoretical terms and ideas (selected): - Characteristic of Russian Formalism (literariness, language/ text in various functions, Jakobson's model of functions, habitualization and defamiliarization, literary device, Yu. Lotman's model of literary evolution, constructive principle, the idea of implied author, fabula and sjuzhet; review of prosodic aspects of poetry (rhythm, metre, tropes, sound orchestration). - American Formalism (New Criticism) and its characteristic concepts: close reading, designing intelligence, ambiguity (Empson), tention (Allen Tate), structure and texture (Ransom), paradox and irony (Brooke), "heresy of paraphrase", "intentional fallacy", affective fallacy" - Structuralist-semiotic tradition of Roman Jakobson: his model of text's functions, poetic equivalence, thematized functions - Semiotics in historical perspective (Ferdinand deSaussure, U. Eco, Yu. Lotman); Concepts characteristic of semiotic approach: model of the world (Lotman); space as a modelling system (Lotman) model reader, intentio auctoris, intentio operis, intentio lectoris (U. Eco) - Bakhtinian views on the novel and culture: dialogic principle, unfinalizability of meaning, heteroglosia, polyphony and monophony, hybridization, Other's word. - Narratology in historical perspective (Propp, Geimas, Stanzel, Genette and others); main fields of narratological investigation (levels of communication in the narrative text, typologies of narrative situations, variety of narrative techniques, modes of discourse (mimetic vs. diegetic - techniques for speech and thought representation, dual voice phenomenon); functioning of artistic chronotope, plot and artistic ordering (syuzhet); - Reader-oriented theories (Jauss and Iser): concretisation, places of indeterminacy, horizon of expectations, implied reader,. - Selected trends in post-structuralist approaches to literature.		
Prerequisites and co-requisites	For students specialising in literary research		
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	Presentation/ project	0.0%	50.0%
	Written/ oral assignments	51.0%	30.0%
	Participation	0.0%	20.0%
Recommended reading	Basic literature Peter Barry, Beginning Theory. An Introduction to literary and cultural theory, Manchester University Press, 2002. Raman Selden, Peter Widdowson, Peter Brooker (eds). A Readers Guide to Contemporary Literary Theory, Pearson Longman 2005. Anna Burzyńska, Michał Paweł Markowski. Teorie Literatury XX wieku. Podręcznik, Wydawnictwo Znak, Kraków 2006. Julie Rivkin and Michael Ryan (eds). Literary Theory. An Anthology. Blackwell Publishing Ltd 2004. Patricia Waugh, Literary Theory and Criticism. An Oxford Guide, Oxford University Press 2006.		

	Supplementary literature	Umberto Eco, Introduction. The Role of the Reader. The Role of the Reader , Indiana University Press 1984. Raman Selden, Peter Widdowson, Peter Brooker (eds) Reader-Oriented Theories. A Readers Guide to Contemporary Literary Theory. Vladimir Propp, Morphology of the Folktale. Mikhail Bakhtin, Discourse in the Novel. The Dialogic Imagination. Four Essays by M.M. Bakhtin. Michael Holquist (ed), University of Texas Press, Austin 1981. Mikhail Bakhtin, The Problem of Speech Genres. Speech Genres and Other Late Essays by M.M. Bakhtin. Caryl Emerson and Michael Holquist (ed), University of Texas Press, Austin 1986. Michel Foucault, The Order of Discourse. Untying the Text: A Post-Structuralist Reader. Robert Young (ed). Reader-Oriented Theories. Raman Selden, Peter Widdowson, Peter Brooker (eds). A Readers Guide to Contemporary Literary Theory. Michel Foucault, What is an Author? . Theories. A Reader. Paul Rainbow (ed), The Foucault Reader, Panthenon Books, New York 1984. Jacques Derrida, Difference. Literary Theory. An Anthology. Jacques Derrida, Of Grammatology. Literary Theory. An Anthology. Jacques Derrida, Semiology and Grammatology. Literary Theory. An Anthology. Jaques Derrida, 'The exorbitant, questions of method". Of Grammatology. Jean Baudrillard, Simulacra and Simulations. Literary Theory. An Anthology. Georges Bataille, Heterology. Literary Theory. An Anthology.
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	Analysis of discourse in selected literary texts. Narrative technique analysis. The role and characterisation techniques of female figures in selected short stories.	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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